

NOTE TO EDITORS



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Attention: NEWS DESK EDITORS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR OCEANS, ENVIRONMENT AND SCIENCE CLAUDIA A. MCMURRAY PRESENTS U.S. FUNDING FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN MALAYSIA

Claudia A. McMurray, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, visited Malaysia from July 29-August 3, 2007.

Making stops in Kuala Lumpur, Kuching, Sandakan, Sepilok, Sukau and Kota Kinabalu, Assistant Secretary McMurray visited with senior Malaysian government officials and toured several national parks and centers where the United States supports research and conservation of wildlife and forests.

As part of her visit to Kuching, Assistant Secretary McMurray presented a check for RM340,700 (US \$100,000) to the ITTO/Project Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation : Pulong Tau National Park, Sarawak State, Malaysia. This project is being managed by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and is a collaborative effort with Indonesia and Brunei. "Wildlife, trees, mountains, water – none of these things stop at national boundaries," McMurray said. "So the work of one country, while important, can't sustain the entire resource."

Assistant Secretary McMurray also made donations to environmental projects in Sabah. During a visit to Kota Kinabalu, she presented a check for RM138,800 (US\$40,000) to the Sun Bear & Bearded Pig Research and Conservation project, and RM69,400 (US\$20,000) to the Ulu Segama-Malua Forest Restoration project.

These joint conservation efforts are in keeping with the announcement made last year by U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that the U.S. would support projects for the protection and sustainable development of forests in the region. The Secretary was in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, in July 2006 for the annual Regional Forum ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

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